

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00

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R 121029Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 688

INFO AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

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CASABLANCE FOR RCAA

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EAIR, GH, US

SUBJ: CIVAIR: USG/GOG BILATERAL RELATIONS:

REF: 75 ACCRA 8108

1. DURING COURTESY CALL JAN 8 ON ATTORNEY GENERAL (AG) AND COMMISSIONER FOR JUSTICE KORENTENG ADDOW, ACCOMPANIED BY E/C COUNSELOR, I RAISED ISSUE OF BACK TAX CLAIM AGAINST PAN AM. AG WAS UNBRIEFED, BUT PROMISED TO LOOK INTO MATTER WITH DISPATCH -- STATING THAT AVIATION LAW A MATTER OF PERSONAL PROFESSION INTEREST.

2. AG SAID THAT MATTER HAD APPARENTLY BEEN HANDLED BY DEPUTY AG DR. S.K.B. ASANTE (AS INDEED IT HAD), WHO HAD LEFT THAT DAY FOR CANADA. I POINTED OUT THAT THIS WAS ONE OF FEW ISSUES WHICH REMAINED BEFORE USG/GOG AVIATION BILATERAL COULD BE SIGNED, AND THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT WE NOT LOST MOMENTUM GAINED AT NOVEMBER WASHINGTON NEGOTIATIONS. HE AGREED WITH THIS POINT, AND VOLUNTEERED THAT HE THOUGHT BACK TAXES FOR SO MANY YEARS WERE OUT OF ORDER.

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3. DIRECTOR CIVIL AVIATION DWEMOH TOLD E/C COUNSELOR JAN 9

THAT SENOR STATE'S ATTORNEY HAD CALLED HIM THAT MORNING TO MEETING
EARLY NEXT WEEK WITH AG TO DISCUSS ENTIRE BILATERAL AVAIAION
MATTER. DWEMOH SAID HE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THIS DEVELOPMENT AS IT
MAY INDICATE SENIOR LEVELS OF GOG WILLING TO MOVE TO FINAL AGREEMENT.
DWEMOH AND COUNSELOR AGREED THAT WITH AGREEMENT 85 OR 90 PERCENT
ACHIEVED WE SHOULD MOVE QUICKLY TO REACH 100 PERCENT.

4. COMMENT: WE, TOO, ARE OPTIMISTIC AS RESULT THESE DEVELOPMENTS.
CLEARLY, NOTHING HAD BEEN DONE IN GOG SINCE EVENTS REPORTED
REFTEL UNTIL AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON AG. AS WE FEARED, INTERVENTION
OF CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR HOLIDAY AND TRAVEL OF OFFICIALS INVOLVED
PRECLUDED ANY PROGRESS.
BLACK

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